

found a few *Spialia* larvae which had folded their leaves the other way round and they were obviously safe from this particular wasp individual. If there was consistent, heavy predation of the nature I saw, this way of folding the leaf would undoubtedly be selected in favour of. Unfortunately the wasp was not caught, nor its nest found. I spent the next 24 hours waiting for a plane at Murtala Mohammed Airport. How I would have preferred to get to the bottom of that issue instead! — TORBEN B. LARSEN, 23, Jackson's La., London, N.6.

A NEW SPECIES OF *HYPOLYCAENA* FELDER
FROM SOUTHERN AFRICA
(LEPIDOPTERA : LYCAENIDAE)

By G. A. HENNING*

Abstract

A description of a new species of *Hypolycaena* Felder previously thought to be *Hypolycaena amanica* Stempffer, 1951.

Introduction

The females of this species have been known for some considerable time but as no males were available it was presumed to be a form of *H. philippus* (Fab.). The first two males were captured by Mr. W. Teare in the Amatongas forest, Mozambique, in March 1969. He later captured six males and a female in the Chirinda forest, Zimbabwe-Rhodesia, but this female does not show the extensive white coloration on the upperside which is so characteristic of the earlier females. The Chirinda forest males are also, on the whole, paler on the underside than the Amatongas specimens. This species was mistakenly identified as *H. amanica*, which is an inhabitant of the forests of the Usambara range in northern Tanzania. The holotype and a paratype of *H. amanica* was kindly loaned by the British Museum (Natural History) for study and on comparison it was immediately evident that the two were not conspecific. This species is identified and pictured as *H. amanica* in "Pennington's Butterflies of Southern Africa" edited by C. G. C. Dickson, 1978.

Hypolycaena tearei spec. nov.

DIAGNOSIS. The male is similar to *H. amanica* on the upperside and to *H. philippus* on the underside. The female is similar to that of *H. philippus*, but with the upperside white markings more extensive and the ground-colour paler brown. This species is also slightly smaller than either *H. amanica* or *H. philippus*. The undersides of male and female are very similar to those of *H. philippus* but the ground-colour is paler. The underside of *H. amanica* is closer to that of *H. buxtoni* Hew. and not the *philippus*-group.

* 1 Lawrence Street, Florida Park, Florida 1710, South Africa.

DESCRIPTION. Holotype ♂. Forewing length 14.4 mm. Antenna: club black with ochreous tip; shaft black with white rings. Head: black above, whitish beneath. Eyes: ochreous-brown. Palpi: black above, white beneath. Thorax: Black above, white beneath. Legs: white with black spots. Abdomen: black above, white beneath with black lateral stripes.

Wings. Forewing. Slightly more rounded than in either *H. amonica* or *H. philippus*; cilia grey. *Upperside.* Ground-colour bluish-purple; a black border, broadest at apex and tapering towards tornus. The border is twice as broad as that of *H. amonica* and the ground-colour is more bluish. *Hindwing.* Slightly more rounded than in either *H. philippus* or *H. amonica*. *Upperside.* Ground-colour bluish-purple. Cilia white, tipped with grey and black at end of veins. White admarginal line from vein 6 to anal angle. Black submarginal spots in areas 1c and 2 and a small spot in the anal lobe. The upper spot bordered proximally with orange. The spot in anal lobe almost obscured proximally with ochreous. The tails are black, tipped and edged with white. Anal fold dark grey. *Underside. Forewing.* Very similar to that of *H. philippus* but with the ground-colour a paler grey. The median, discal and postdiscal lines similar to those of *H. philippus*, but darker in colour. Cilia grey with pinkish-brown along the outer margin. *Hindwing.* Similar to that of *H. philippus* but with the ground-colour as in forewing and lines darker. The ground-colour of the distal half of the wing paler than that of the proximal half. Cilia and white admarginal line as on upperside, with a dark brown edge to the outer margin. Black spots only in area 2 and in anal lobe. Spot in 2 strongly ochreous bordered proximally, while spot in anal lobe is less so.

Allotype ♀. Forewing length 15.3 mm. Antenna: as in male. Head: brownish above, white beneath. Eyes: ochreous-brown. Palpi: black above, white beneath. Thorax: dark brown above, white beneath. Legs: as in male. Abdomen: dark brown above, white beneath; lateral stripes brown and not as pronounced as in the male. *Wings. Forewing.* Slightly more rounded than in male. *Upperside.* Ground-colour pale brown, not ochreous-brown as in *H. philippus*. Cilia grey. There is a postmedial white band 2 mm wide at the costa broadening down to area 1b, in which it extends inwardly and then merges into the ground-colour before the base of the wing. The veins are pale brown where they run through the band. *Hindwing.* Slightly more rounded than in the male. *Upperside.* Ground-colour pale brown. Cilia white, tipped with pale brown at the vein ends. There is a white admarginal line from vein 7 to the anal angle, and there are black submarginal spots in 1c and 2, and a small spot in the anal lobe. The upper black spot is bordered proximally with orange. The spot in the anal lobe is almost obscured proximally with ochreous. There is also a submarginal series of rather lunular white marks in areas 4 and 6, with small dark brown or black markings between them and the white admarginal line. The discal band on the forewing is, in effect, continued on to the hindwing tapering from area 6, where it is 2 mm broad, to vein 1b.

The veins running through the band are pale brown. The tails are dark brown, tipped and edged with white. The anal fold is brownish-grey, edged with white hairs. *Underside. Forewing.* Similar to that of the male, but with the general ground-colour paler and the median, discal and postdiscal lines pale pinkish-brown. *Hindwing.* Similar to that of the male, but with the ground-colour paler and the median, discal and postdiscal lines pale pinkish-brown. Cilia as on upperside and outer margin edged with dark brown.

TYPE MATERIAL. Holotype ♂, Chirinda forest, Melsetter District, Zimbabwe-Rhodesia, 22.II.1972, W. Teare. Allotype ♀, Chirinda forest, Melsetter District, 15.III.1945, E. C. G. Pinhey. Both in the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria. Paratypes: as Holotype, 4♂ 1♀ (W. Teare Collection) and 1♂ (Henning Collection): 2♂ Amatongas forest, Mozambique, 30.III.1969, W. Teare, (W. Teare Collection); 1♂ Amatongas forest, 27.I.1970; 1♀ Amatongas forest, IX.1944, B. C. Cox; 1♀ Vumba, Zimbabwe-Rhodesia, 28.V.1942, B. D. Barnes, (all in National Museum, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe-Rhodesia) 1♀ Chirinda forest, Zimbabwe-Rhodesia, 5.IV.1961, J. C. O. Chitty, (Chitty Collection).

The life history is unknown. Habitat: evergreen forest. *Habits.* The type-series of males was caught early in the morning, playing around the forest edge. The males of this species apparently spend most of the day on the tree tops. The females spend their time looking for males or foodplants on which to lay their eggs.

DISTRIBUTION. The Amatongas forest of Mozambique, the Chirinda and Vumba forests of eastern Zimbabwe-Rhodesia.

FLIGHT PERIOD. Probably throughout the warmer months, the best months appearing to be February and March.

I have pleasure in naming this species after Mr. W. Teare of Benoni who not only caught the first males, but whose great knowledge of our butterflies and friendship has inspired me for many years.

Acknowledgements

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References

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